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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/685,354	Applicant(s) CHEN, MICHAEL
	Examiner Jason Thomas	Art Unit 2423

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 September 2010.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-66 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-66 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-215)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No./Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No./Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pp. 1-5, filed September 17, 2010, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-66 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Gordon et. al., U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0028879, Nadan, U.S. Pat. No. 5,321,750 and Plotnick et al. U.S. Pat. No. 7,440,674 B2.

Claim Objections

1. Claims 4, 19 and 59 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 4 recites: "...the portion and the second portion..." but appears that the claim should recite, "...the first portion and the second portion..." .

Claims 19 and 59 recite: "An apparatus... with at least a second image:" but appears to be missing "comprising".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon et al., (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0028879 A1) in view of Nadan, (U.S. Pat. No. 5,321,750) and Plotnick et al., (U.S. Pat. No. 7,440,674 B2).

Regarding claims 1 and 19: Gordon discloses a method and apparatus for preparing at least a first image for integration with at least a second image, comprising:

receiving at least the first image 1004 (where a video is a sequence of image frames) via an input 216 (where the encoder inherently has an input); and an encoder 216 for forming a first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image with a reference to another segment of the first image (see e.g. [0050-52] for the use of slice-based, predictive encoding where macroblocks read on segments) thereby preparing the first compressed image for integration with at least the second image (see e.g. [figs. 2, 4, 11, 24], [0161-165] for preparing for integration) but does not teach converting from analog to digital or wherein only a portion of a first image area is used.

Nadan teaches converting an analog signal to digital (see e.g. [col. 12, ll. 1-17], [claim 134]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Gordon, by providing analog to digital conversion, as taught by Nadan, in order to benefit from the compression and processing features of digital encoding.

Plotnick teaches a plurality of ways to present images on a display which include presenting only a portion of a first image with a portion of a second image to create a single presentation (see e.g. [fig. 17]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the way in which images are presented on a display using sliced based technology, as taught in Gordon, by presenting full image frames, modified images (i.e. varying opaqueness), or image portions, which are presented in a plurality of ways, as taught by Plotnick, in order to provide the user with a plurality of presentation styles which best meet his/her viewing needs and reduce viewing obstruction.

Regarding claim 2: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach further comprising preparing at least the second image for integration with at least the first image by: receiving at least the second image (see e.g. [figs. 2, 11]), and where the first image comprises an analog image, converting the analog image to a second digital image (see e.g. Nadan [col. 12, II. 1-17], [claim 134] for converting to digital; see also e.g. Gordon [fig. 4, item 406], [fig. 24], [fig. 32] for a compositor/combiner used for integrating).

Regarding claim 3: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second compressed image is formed from restricted to a second portion of a second image area by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion, thereby preparing the second compressed image for

integration with the first compressed image (see e.g. Gordon [figs. 2, 11] for a second image; e.g. Plotnick [fig. 17] for image portions of an image area; see also e.g. Gordon [0050], [0052], [0077] for teaching sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks).

Regarding claim 4: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area and the second image area are the same, and the first portion and the second portion are different portions within the same image area (see e.g. Gordon [0052] for sliced based encoding; see also e.g. Plotnick [fig. 17] for various configurations to generate portions of a first and second image).

Regarding claim 5: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area and the second image area are different, and the portion and the second region portion are different portions within different image areas (see e.g. Gordon [0052] for sliced based encoding; see also e.g. Plotnick [fig. 17] for various configurations to generate portions of a first and second image).

Regarding claim 6: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the portion comprises one or more slices of the first image (see e.g. Gordon [0052] for sliced based encoding; see also e.g. Plotnick [fig. 17] for various configurations to generate portions of a first and second image).

Regarding claim 7: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second portion comprises one or more slices of the second image (see e.g. Gordon [0052] for sliced based encoding; see also e.g. Plotnick [fig. 17] for various configurations to generate portions of a first and second image).

Regarding claim 8: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach further comprising combining the first compressed image and the second compressed image by interleaving the portion and the second portion (see e.g. Gordon [0052] for sliced based encoding; see also e.g. [fig. 4, item 406], [fig. 24], [fig. 32] for a compositor/combiner used for integrating; see also e.g. Plotnick [fig. 17] for various configurations to generate portions of a first and second image).

Regarding claim 9: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein at least one of the first image or the second image includes at least one frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] for using at least one frame).

Regarding claim 10: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area spans at least one frame, and the step of forming the first compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion of the frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for variations in obtaining portions and their placement).

Regarding claim 11: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image area spans at least one frame, and the step of forming the second compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion of the frame (see

e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for variations in obtaining portions and their placement).

Regarding claim 12: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach, wherein the first image area spans multiple frames, and the step of forming the first compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the first image within the region portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the first image within the region portion of a different frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for variations in obtaining portions and their placement).

Regarding claim 13: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image area spans multiple frames, and step of forming the second compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the second image within the second portion of a different frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for variations in obtaining portions and their placement).

Regarding claim 14: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image includes a still image, and the second image includes a motion video image, a still image, or a combination of both (see Gordon [figs. 1, 11],

[0072] where the first image can be a menu guide, a still image, and the second image is a video, still, graphic etc.).

Regarding claim 15: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is a barker (see Gordon [0056] for a barker).

Regarding claim 16: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image is a menu or programming guide (see Gordon [fig. 1, 11], [0056] for an IPG).

Regarding claim 17: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein at least the first image is prepared for integration with at least the second image for display to a content-on-demand subscriber (see Gordon [0056], [0175] for providing such integrated video for a VOD subscriber which reads on content on demand).

Regarding claim 18: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second image to form an integrated image (see e.g. Gordon [0052] for sliced based encoding; see also e.g. [fig. 4, item 406], [fig. 24], [fig. 32] for a compositor/combiner used for integrating; see also e.g. Plotnick [fig. 17] for various configurations to generate portions of a first and second image).

Regarding claim 20: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach further comprising an input for receiving at least the second image, wherein the encoder forms a second compressed image (see e.g. Gordon [0052] for sliced based encoding using an encoder; see also e.g. [fig. 4, item 406], [fig. 24], [fig. 32]

for a compositor/combiner used for integrating; see also e.g. Plotnick [fig. 17] for various configurations to generate portions of a first and second image).

Regarding claim 21: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second compressed image is formed from a second portion of a second image area by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region portion, thereby preparing the second compressed image for integration with the first compressed image (see e.g. Gordon [figs. 2, 4, 11, 24], [0161-165] for preparing for integration; see also e.g. Plotnick [fig. 17] for various configurations to generate portions of a first and second image).

Regarding claim 22: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area and the second image area are the same, and the portion and the second region portion are different regions within the same image area (see e.g. Plotnick [fig. 17] for various configurations to generate and place portions of a first and second image).

Regarding claim 23: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area and the second image area are different, and the portion and the second region portion are different regions within different image areas (see e.g. Plotnick [fig. 17] for various configurations to generate portions of a first and second image).

Regarding claim 24: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is logically or physically divided into slices (see Gordon [0052], [0055] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 25: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image is logically or physically divided into slices (see Gordon [0052], [0055] for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 26: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second compressed image by interleaving first image includes at least one frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052] for sliced based encoding; see also e.g. [fig. 4, item 406], [fig. 24], [fig. 32] for a compositor/combiner used for integrating; see also e.g. Plotnick [fig. 17] for various configurations to generate portions of a first and second image).

Regarding claim 27: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein one or more of the first image or the second image includes at least one frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding).

Regarding claim 28: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area spans at least one frame, and the encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the first image within the region portion of the frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for

sliced based encoding; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for variations in obtaining portions and their placement).

Regarding claim 29: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image area spans at least one frame, and the encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region portion of the frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for variations in obtaining portions and their placement).

Regarding claim 30: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area spans multiple frames, and the encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the first image within the region portion of a different frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for variations in obtaining portions and their placement).

Regarding claim 31: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image area spans multiple frames, and the encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion of one frame with a reference to a segment

of the second image within the second region portion of a different frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for variations in obtaining portions and their placement).

Regarding claim 32: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is a motion video image, and the second image is a still image, a motion video image, or a combination of both (see e.g. Gordon [fig. 1, 11], [0056], [0072] where the first image can be a menu guide, a still image, and the second image is a video).

Regarding claim 33: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is a barker (see e.g. Gordon [0056] for a barker).

Regarding claim 34: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image is a menu or programming guide (see e.g. Gordon [fig. 1, 2, 11], [0056] for an IPG).

Regarding claim 35: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein at least the first image is prepared for integration with at least the second image for display to a content-on-demand subscriber (see Gordon [0056], [0175] for providing such integrated video for a VOD subscriber which reads on content on demand).

Regarding claim 36: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second image to form an integrated image by interleaving the first image with the second image (see

e.g. Gordon [0052] for sliced based encoding; see also e.g. [fig. 4, item 406], [fig. 24], [fig. 32] for a compositor/combiner used for integrating; see also e.g. Plotnick [fig. 17] for various configurations to generate portions of a first and second image).
2. Claims 37-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon in view of Plotnick.

Regarding claims 37: Gordon discloses a system for preparing at least a first image, wherein the first image is a digital image, for integration with at least a second image, comprising:

a receiver for receiving at least the first image 1004 (where a video is a sequence of image frames) via an receiver 216 (where the encoder receives the image); and at least a first encoder 216 for forming a first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image with a reference to another segment of the first image (see e.g. [0050-52] for the use of slice-based, predictive encoding where macroblocks read on segments) thereby preparing the first compressed image for integration with at least the second image (see e.g. [figs. 2, 4, 11, 24], [0161-165] for preparing for integration) but does not teach wherein only a portion of a first image area is used.

Plotnick teaches a plurality of ways to present images on a display which include presenting only a portion of a first image with a portion of a second image to create a single presentation (see e.g. [fig. 17]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the way in which images are presented on a display using sliced based

technology, as taught in Gordon, by presenting full image frames, modified images (i.e. varying opaqueness), or image portions, which are presented in a plurality of ways, as taught by Plotnick, in order to provide the user with a plurality of presentation styles which best meet his/her viewing needs and reduce viewing obstruction.

Regarding claims 55, 59 and 63: Gordon discloses a method, apparatus and system for integrating at least a first image and at least a second image: at least a first encoder 216 for receiving the first image 1004 (i.e. where the image is digital) and forming a first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image with a reference to another segment of the first image (see e.g. [0050-52] for the use of slice-based, predictive encoding where macroblocks read on segments); and a combiner for combining the first compressed image and the second image to form an integrated image (see e.g. [fig. 4, item 406], [fig. 24], [fig. 32] for a compositor/combiner) but does not teach wherein only a portion of a first image area is used.

Plotnick teaches a plurality of ways to present images on a display which include presenting only a portion of a first image with a portion of a second image to create a single presentation (see e.g. [fig. 17]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the way in which images are presented on a display using sliced based technology, as taught in Gordon, by presenting full image frames, modified images (i.e. varying opaqueness), or image portions, which are presented in a plurality of

ways, as taught by Plotnick, in order to provide the user with a plurality of presentation styles which best meet his/her viewing needs and reduce viewing obstruction.

Regarding claim 38: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach further comprising: a receiver for receiving at least a second image; and a second encoder for forming a second compressed image, thereby preparing the second image for integration with the first image (see e.g. Gordon [figs. 2, 11], [0072] for receiving and an encoder for encoding where multiple encoders is anticipated; see also e.g. [figs. 2, 4, 11, 24], [0161-165] for preparing for integration). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify server 510 by providing more than one encoder, as taught by Gordon, in order to allow each independent signal to have a dedicated encoder to increase the throughput and reduce system congestion.

Regarding claim 39: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second encoder forms the second compressed image from a second region portion of a second image area by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region portion (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0055] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding; see also [0072] for using more than one encoder).

Regarding claim 40: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area and the second image area are the same, and the portion and the second region portion are different regions within the same image area (see Gordon [0052], [0055] for sliced based encoding; see also [figs. 4, 24] for compositing signals; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for a plurality of image portion configurations).

Regarding claim 41: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area and the second image area are different, and the portion and the second region portion are different regions within different image areas (see Gordon [0052], [0055] for sliced based encoding; see also [figs. 4, 24] for compositing signals; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for a plurality of image portion configurations).

Regarding claim 42: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is logically or physically divided into segments (see Gordon [0052], [0055] for sliced based encoding which logically/physically divided into segments/macro blocks).

Regarding claim 43: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image is logically or physically divided into segments (see Gordon [0052], [0055] for sliced based encoding which logically/physically divided into segments/macro blocks).

Regarding claim 44: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image includes at least one frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052],

[0073] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding; see also [fig. 11] for multiple images i.e. video 1, 2 or 3).

Regarding claim 45: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image includes at least one frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding; see also [fig. 11] for multiple images i.e. video 1, 2 or 3).

Regarding claim 46: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area spans at least one frame, and the first encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the region portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the first image within the region portion of the frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for variations in obtaining portions and their placement).

Regarding claim 47: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image area spans at least one frame, and the second encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region portion of the frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] where working with frames is inherent to

applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for variations in obtaining portions and their placement).

Regarding claim 48: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image area spans multiple frames, and the first encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the region portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the first image within the region portion of a different frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for variations in obtaining portions and their placement).

Regarding claim 49: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image area spans multiple frames, and the second encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the second image within the second region portion of a different frame (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0073] where working with frames is inherent to applying such a process when working with video and for sliced based encoding; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for variations in obtaining portions and their placement).

Regarding claim 50: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is a motion video image, and the second image is a still image, a motion video image, or a combination of both (see e.g. Gordon [fig. 1,

11], [0056] where the first image can be a menu guide, a still image, and the second image is a video).

Regarding claim 51: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is a barker (see e.g. Gordon [figs. 1, 11], [0056] for a barker).

Regarding claim 52: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second image is a menu or programming guide (see e.g. Gordon [figs. 1, 11], [0056] for an IPG).

Regarding claim 53: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first image is prepared for integration with at least the second image for display to a content-on-demand subscriber (see Gordon [0056], [0175] for providing such integrated video for a VOD subscriber which reads on content on demand).

Regarding claim 54: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second image to form an integrated image (see e.g. Gordon [figs. 2, 4, 11, 24], [0161-165] for preparing for integration using a compositor which integrates images).

Regarding claim 56: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach further comprising forming a second compressed image, wherein the step of combining combines the second compressed image with the first compressed image (see e.g. Gordon [figs. 2, 4, 11, 24], [0161-165] for preparing for integration using a compositor which integrates images).

Regarding claim 57: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second compressed image is formed, restricted to a second portion of a second image area, by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion (see e.g. Gordon [fig. 11], [0072] for a second image and multiple encoders; see also [0052], [0055] for teaching sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks such that each portion is referenced by start and stop identifiers).

Regarding claim 58: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the step of combining comprises selecting first portions of the first compressed image within the first portion, selecting second portions of the second compressed image within the second portion, and combining the selected first portions and second portions (see e.g. Gordon [0052], [0055] for sliced based encoding; see also [fig. 24] for compositing).

Regarding claim 60: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the encoder forms a second compressed image, and the combiner combines the second compressed image with the first compressed image (see e.g. Gordon [fig. 24] for a compositor which integrates images).

Regarding claim 61: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second compressed image is formed, from a second portion of a second image area, by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion with a reference to another segment of the second

image within the second region portion (see e.g. Gordon [fig. 11] for a second image, see also [0052], [0055]) for teaching sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks such that each portion is referenced by start and stop identifiers and then recombined).

Regarding claim 62: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the combiner selects first portions of the first compressed image within the portion, selects second portions of the second compressed image within the second region portion, and combines the selected first portions and second portions (see e.g. Gordon [fig. 11] for a second image, see also [0052], [0055]) for teaching sliced based encoding such that the image is broken into a number of macro blocks such that each portion is referenced by start and stop identifiers and then recombined).

Regarding claim 64: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach further comprising: at least a second encoder for receiving the second image and forming a second compressed image, wherein the combiner combines the first compressed image and the second compressed image (see e.g. Gordon [figs. 2, 11], [0072] where the use of multiple encoders is anticipated; [0052] for sliced based encoding and frames; see also e.g. [figs. 2, 4, 11, 24], [0161-165] for preparing for integration). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify server 510 by providing more than one encoder, as taught by Gordon, in order to allow each independent signal to have a dedicated encoder to increase the throughput and reduce system congestion.

Regarding claim 65: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the second encoder forms the second compressed image, from a second region portion of a second image area, by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region portion (see e.g. Gordon [figs. 2, 11], [0072] for receiving and an encoder for encoding where multiple encoders is anticipated; [0052] for sliced based encoding and frames; see also e.g. [figs. 2, 4, 11, 24], [0161-165] for preparing for integration; see also e.g. Plotnick [fig. 17 for the user and placement of image portions).

Regarding claim 66: The combined teachings of the aforementioned art teach wherein the combiner selects first portions of the first compressed image within the portion selects second portions of the second compressed image within the region portion, and combines the selected first portions and second portions (see e.g. Gordon [figs. 2, 4, 11, 24], [0161-165] for a compositor for preparing for integration; see also Plotnick [fig. 17] for the use and placement of image portions).

Conclusion

In view of the arguments filed on September 17, 2010, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. New grounds of rejection are set forth above.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply

under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Thomas whose telephone number is (571) 270-5080. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Koenig can be reached on (571) 272-7296. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2423

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

J. Thomas

/Andrew Y Koenig/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2423